

Results of the EDI Evaluation Review

As a part of the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) evaluation, several recommendations were offered to address the areas of concern identified. These recommendations were presented to senior management in the Office of the Comptroller and the Department of Procurement and General Services and are included in the document entitled "Evaluating EDI in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: An Executive Summary", section "5.0 Concerns and Recommendations". The areas of concern and their section number in this document are listed below:

- 5.1 Vendor Catalog
- 5.2 Service Contract
- 5.3 Internal Controls
- 5.4 System Enhancements
- 5.5 Training
- 5.6 Evaluation of the Matching Process
- 5.7 Partnership Responsibilities
- 5.8 Implementation
- 5.9 Vendor Access

Management reviewed the recommendations presented and indicated that recommendations requiring additional technical resources for system programming would be held due to a lack of financial resources at this time. These may be reconsidered in the future. The focus of the recommendations to be taken, therefore, are on those which can be resolved by using available business resources..

The following chart lists the recommendations for the areas of concern and the tasks which have been completed or will be completed by FY96 year end. These tasks will be completed by a four member EDI team formed to implement these tasks.

Area of Concern	Recommendation	Task
5.1 Vendor Catalog	Improve quality, content and timing of uploads to the vendor catalog table in MMARS	Vendors must improve the catalog information provided and take full responsibility for catalog management.
5.2 Service Contract	Relate business needs for ordering all service contract items to the EDI processes and document these processes.	Continue training departments on EDI SCs. Review additional service types with vendors and document processes.
5.3 Internal Controls	Work with departments on improving their inadequate execution of internal control policies and update the internal control guide for distribution.	EDI team will work with departments to identify the best business approaches for using EDI at small, medium and large departments, and will document a guide for each size department to reference.
5.4 System Enhancements	The production problems identified and the needed enhancements which would require technical resources should be completed to provide additional efficiency to the EDI processes.	Hold needed system enhancements due to lack of financial resources. All identified production problems should be completed as soon as possible. EDI team members will assist in acceptance testing of fixes.